

Communities of Faith and Hope



CCSP



Council of
Catholic School Parents NSW

Strategic Plan
2014-2017

mission and values



OUR MISSION

Mission is the fundamental purpose of the CCSP and articulates what the we stand for.

The CCSP exists to provide *leadership, advocacy and support* to all parents with children in Catholic Schools in NSW.

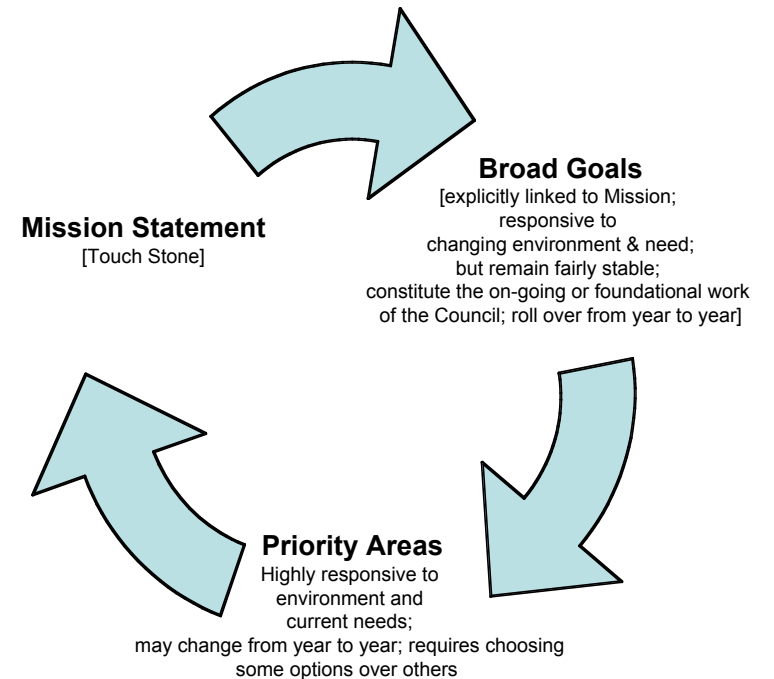
OUR VALUES

Our values identify what we believe in. These values and beliefs should guide all that we do, and be very visible in our work.

As CCSP:

- we believe in the empowerment of parents as the first and most important educator of their children
- we believe that all parents have the capacity to help their children and want the best for them. All parents have the right to the support they need in order to do this
- we believe that all children are capable of learning and have the right to access the best possible education
- we believe in the value of partnership between home and school
- we believe in the importance of childhood and children's experience
- we see children as being partners in education
- we believe in the right of parents to lifelong learning opportunities

LINKING MISSION, GOALS AND PRIORITIES



'I have come that you may have life,
and have it to the full.'

[John 10:10]

Strategic plan

STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan establishes a direction, priorities and broad timescales. Responsibility for developing strategic plan rests with the state Council and staff.

This Plan builds on the CCSP's previous Strategic Plan (2010-2013). To ensure some continuity and to honour the work that went into the previous CCSP plans we have adopted some broad goals for the Council.

These broad goals constitute some of the regular and on-going activities of the Council and are explicitly linked the CCSP mission. In addition to the broad operational goals of the CCSP, there are four priority areas where the CCSP will put particular focus and energy over the coming years.

BROAD GOALS -

Leadership:

- To assist in the development of Strong Diocesan Parent Bodies
- To build/maintain the profile of the CCSP and its diocesan representatives and strengthen relationships with the Diocesan Bishops, CEC and others including other parent associations

- To identify opportunities to support parent leaders through activities such as mentoring, professional learning and succession planning
- To maintain strong relationships with the media and maintain the profile of the CCSP as the peak parent voice for parents with children in Catholic schools
- To maintain an appropriately resourced organisation
- To promote inclusive leadership models

Advocacy:

- To promote Catholic school interests in public policy affecting the provision and delivery of education (with particular emphasis on parents/carers)
- To foster understanding of and commitment to emerging issues which are important to the future of Catholic education
- To support political advocacy at state and local levels especially around elections
- To promote the role of families and family partnerships with government and others
- To have a voice at the state and national level and promote CCSP with government and other relevant agencies
- To promote inclusive services for children and parents/carers

Support:

- To provide an range of effective methods of communication, both internal and external, to support members and the mission of the CCSP
- To develop strategies that align with and/or support those of CCSP members
- To promote strong links between families, schools and Church through various activities including specific resources
- To deliver professional learning opportunities and undertake projects to support parental engagement with learning and well-being

PRIORITY AREAS 2014-2017

- 1. Catholic Identity and Faith**
- 2. Strategic Partnerships**
- 3. Meeting Diverse Families Needs**
- 4. Communication and Connectedness**

Priority Areas 2014-17

1. Catholic Identity and Faith

Focus Areas:

- Support Catholic schools as communities of hope and faith, where all are inspired by the person and teachings of Christ and imbued with the Holy Spirit, and where all work together for the benefit of each member of the school community
- Celebrate and promote the achievements of Catholic schools
- Support work of the Bishops and Catholic education around addressing the critical indicators of progress outlined in the Crossroads Pastoral Letter.
- Promote resources to support adult (parent) faith formation and engagement with the religious education of their children

2. Strategic Partnerships

Focus Areas:

- Further develop university partnerships
- Participate in the further establishment of Catholic School Parents Australia as an effective voice for Catholic school parents at the national level
- Partner with Diocesan Offices, Diocesan Parent Associations and Congregational Schools
- Partner with other state level parent associations (government and independent) and Principal and teacher associations

3. Meeting Diverse Families' Needs

Focus Areas:

- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families (CALD)
- Rural and Remote Families and Schools
- Students with Disabilities and Special Needs and their Families
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Communities
- Changing Family Life

4. Communication & Connectedness

Focus Areas:

- Universal Communications
- Targeted Communications
- Conferences and Master Classes
- Promote Catholic education as a 'Community' of Catholic schools

Activities

Brainstorm ideas

1. Catholic Identity and Faith

Focus Areas:

1.1 Support Catholic schools as communities of hope and faith, where all are inspired by the person and teachings of Christ and imbued with the Holy Spirit, and where all work together for the benefit of each member of the school community

- Develop and/or identify and promote resources for schools and families to support inclusive and welcoming practices
- Be a voice for *all* families

1.2 Celebrate and promote the achievements of Catholic schools

- Actively partner with the dioceses at a state level to promote and participate in Catholic School Week and the Catholic Schools Website
- Showcase Catholic school achievements through our publications and media
- Celebrate World Catholic Schools Day 29 May

1.3 Support the work of the Bishops and Catholic education in addressing the critical indicators of progress outlined the Crossroads Pastoral Letter.

- Participate in state-level initiatives including the Mission and Identity Working Party of the Commission
- Develop an understanding of and share effective ways of meaningfully engaging parents in the faith and traditions of the Church from the early years (prior to school) and throughout school
- Engage with the Holy See's Synod on the Family

1.4 Support families in their role as primary educators in the faith

- Identify and promote resources to support adult (parent) faith formation and engagement with the religious education of their children

Activities

Brainstorm ideas

2. Strategic Partnerships

Focus Areas:

- **Further develop university partnerships**
 - Continue to identify ways to support the enhancement of parent and community engagement in undergraduate and post-graduate education courses, including the *Strengthening Parent and Community Engagement* project with the Joint Parent Forum and ACU (Noting links to the Great Teaching Inspired Learning objectives of the State Government)
 - Link with both Catholic universities on their community engagement projects and identify areas for collaboration
 - Be a partner investigator in the Australian Research Council Project with ACU: *Parent engagement cultures: Investigating bridges and barriers between home and school*
 - Link with other higher education providers, for example the Broken Bay Institute, around other adult education opportunities for parents
- **Participate in the further establishment of Catholic School Parents Australia as an effective voice for Catholic school parents at the national level**
 - Continue to play a leadership role in its formation stage
 - Be the lead state with responsibility for CSPA's web and social media communications and lead the web and communications committee
 - Identify areas for closer collaboration among state and territory parent associations
- **Partner with Diocesan Offices, Diocesan Parent Associations and Congregational Schools**
 - Identify opportunities to share the work of both partners through their various networks eg websites and publications
 - Develop a state-level framework/ charter for family, school and community partnerships and a 'how to' guide of practical ideas for schools and parents
 - Develop a parent leadership framework, leveraging off the work undertaken in Lismore
- **Partner with other state level parent associations (government and independent) and Principal and teacher associations**

Activities

Brainstorm ideas

3.Meeting Diverse Families' Needs

Focus Areas:

- **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families (CALD)**
 - Identify and/or develop resources to support inclusive practices for CALD families
 - Linking with diocesan staff and other agencies and showcasing promising practices
 - Identify ways to ensure CCSP hears their voices/stories in meaningful ways
- **Rural and Remote Families and Schools**
 - Advocacy for funding equity for rural schools
 - Strengthen partnership with the Isolated Children Parents Association (ICPA)
 - Identify and promote strategies to enhance educational outcomes for rural children and close the achievement gap
- **Students with Disabilities and Special Needs and their Families**
 - Establish an effective forum for hearing the voice of families with children with special needs
 - Establish strategic partnerships with other parent groups with a focus on students with disabilities and other special needs, for example gifted and talented
 - Identify and share resources to support families, highlight advances and/or promising practices in the area of special needs education
 - Provide opportunities for families to build network with each other either face-to-face or virtually
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Communities**
 - [See the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parent Committee Strategic and Work Plan - separate document]
- **Changing Family Life**
 - Identify and promote ways that schools can engage with families where-ever they are with 'just in time' and easily accessible resources/communications.
 - Draft a discussion paper on the future of parent associations and parent involvement in schools eg volunteering

Activities

Brainstorm ideas

4. Communication and Connectedness

Focus Areas:

- **Universal Communications**
 - Re-Develop the CCSP main website
 - Enhance web and social media presence and connections
 - Review annually and implement the CCSP Communications Strategy
- **Targeted Communications**
 - Identify ways to communicate key information and information about the CCSP to school communities and other key stakeholders that ensures their active engagement
 - Aim to have a link to CCSP (and diocesan parent association/contact) on every school website
- **Conferences and Master Classes**
 - Identify keynote speakers/facilitators for Masterclasses in 2014 and 2016
 - Host 2015 and 2017 conferences in partnership with dioceses
- **Promote Catholic education as a 'Community' of Catholic schools in all our communications**